

Message Text

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TOSEC 297

FOLLOWING SENT ACTION SEOUL TOKYO FROM SECSTATE NOV 22

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TOSEC 297 FOR SONNENFELDT

FOLL REPEAT LONDON 15242 ACTION SECSTATE INFO BONN BRUSSELS
COPENHAGEN DUBLIN THE HAGUE LUXEMBOURG PARIS ROME EC BRUSSELS
OECD PARIS BELFAST EDINBURGH LIVERPOOL 21 NOV 74 QUOTE

UNCLAS LONDON 15242

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, UK, FR, EEC

SUBJECT: CALLAGHAN'S TALKS WITH FRENCH NOVEMBER 19

SUMMARY - ACCORDING TO THE BRITISH PRESS, CALLAGHAN'S
TALKS WITH FRENCH IN PARIS NOVEMBER 19 CENTERED ON UK
CONTRIBUTION TO EC BUDGET, AND ON ENERGY AND OIL. IN
THE ABSENCE OF GREATER BRITISH WILLINGNESS TO MOVE
TOWARD EC POLITICAL UNITY, FRENCH ARE NOT DISPOSED TO
MAKE MAJOR CONCESSIONS ON BUDGET ISSUE. FCO HAS PRO-
MISED US RUNDOWN ON MEETINGS NOVEMBER 22. END SUMMARY

1. ACCORDING TO BRITISH PRESS REPORTS, FOREIGN SECRETARY
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CALLAGHAN PRESSED FRENCH FOR AN EARLY DECISION ON

BRITAIN'S REQUEST FOR A REDUCTION IN HER CONTRIBUTION TO THE EC BUDGET. IN SEPARATE MEETINGS WITH FOREIGN MINISTER SAUVAGNARGUES (TWO-AND-A-HALF HOURS) AND PRESIDENT GISCARD (ONE HOUR), CALLAGHAN GAVE A DETAILED PRESENTATION OF BRITAIN'S CASE. HE ARGUED IN EFFECT THAT NO EC MEMBER COUNTRY SHOULD BE OBLIGED TO PAY MORE THAN IT CAN AFFORD.

2. THE FRENCH AGREED TO GIVE THE BRITISH PROPOSALS CAREFUL CONSIDERATION, BUT REITERATED AGAIN THEIR OPPOSITION TO ANY DIRECT LINKAGE BETWEEN A COUNTRY'S CONTRIBUTION TO THE BUDGET AND THE DIRECT BENEFITS IT DERIVES FROM THE EC. FRENCH GOVERNMENT SOURCES ALSO LET IT BE KNOWN THAT UNLESS THE BRITISH WERE PREPARED TO MOVE TOWARD GREATER EC POLITICAL UNION, FRENCH SAW NO REASON TO GO VERY FAR TOWARD MEETING BRITISH REQUESTS ON BUDGET.

3. CALLAGHAN ALSO DISCUSSED WITH HIS FRENCH HOSTS APPROACHES TO THE PROBLEMS OF ENERGY AND OIL. THEY REPORTEDLY AGREED ON THE NEED FOR AN OVERALL EC ENERGY POLICY.

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